



E. Watson
73

THE EXPERIENCE SHOP



THE DOOR LOOKS
DIFFERENT EACH
TIME I COME --
MUST BE MY
IMAGINATION --
OH WELL... LOTSA'
GOOD STUFF INSIDE.
COME ONIN!

EACH TIME I PASS THRU THE DOOR A TINGLING SENSATION
OF COMPLETE AWARENESS OVERCOMES ME. A SMELL OF
DUNGEONS, DANK AND FORGOTTEN AND STEAMING JUNGLES
DROWN MY SENSES... AND FACES... MOST HIDEOUS... LEERING-



AT ME OUT OF THE DARKNESS. WHIFFS OF SWEET NITE AIR
TEASE MY NOSTRILS AS I GAZE INTO ONE OF THE MANY
PORTHOLES THAT LINE THE INTERIOR OF THE SHOP TO LOOK
UPON WORLDS OF WONDER... AND DECIDE... WHICH ONE...?



THE CREATURES THAT ONCE RULED OUR PLANET, STILL
ROAM HERE... EAR SHATTERING SHRIEKS AND ROARS
ECHO LOUDLY... AND ALWAYS... THE LORD OF THE JUNGLE.



AS I REACHED FOR THE NEXT PORTHOLE A MIGHTY ARMED
"DR. NOME" WAS WHIRLING AN EXPLODING DART
AT THE "ILLUSION MAN" WHO WAS IN THE PROCESS
OF SPROUTING EXTRA LIMBS AND.. WOW! THIS WAS -







THE GREATEST
BATTLE I'VE EVER
SEEN! AND...

AND THINGS,
THINGS...
NOT EVEN IN
YOUR WILDEST
DREAMS!!



THE 4 EYED
SKILLEATER

STRANGE WIZARDS CREATING FIRES JUST AS AN
EXCUSE TO USE THEIR LOVELY EXTINGUISHERS.
ALWAYS A CURIOUS SMOKE ROSE FROM THE COALS!



THOUSANDS OF PORT-
HOLES THAT YAWN THEIR
FASCINATION AT EVERY
STEP!



IT'S ALWAYS LIKE COMING OUT OF A DREAM!
A FACE COMES TO FULL CLARITY... THEN FADES...
IT'S THE KEEPER OF THE SHOP, DEFINITELY A
MAN OF EXPERIENCE... THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...



ER- UH---
DON'T FORGET
WHAT YOU CAME
FOR JOHN!

LOOK AT ALL THE
PUSSYCATS!!
OH NO BOB- I..
WOULDN'T DO
THAT!

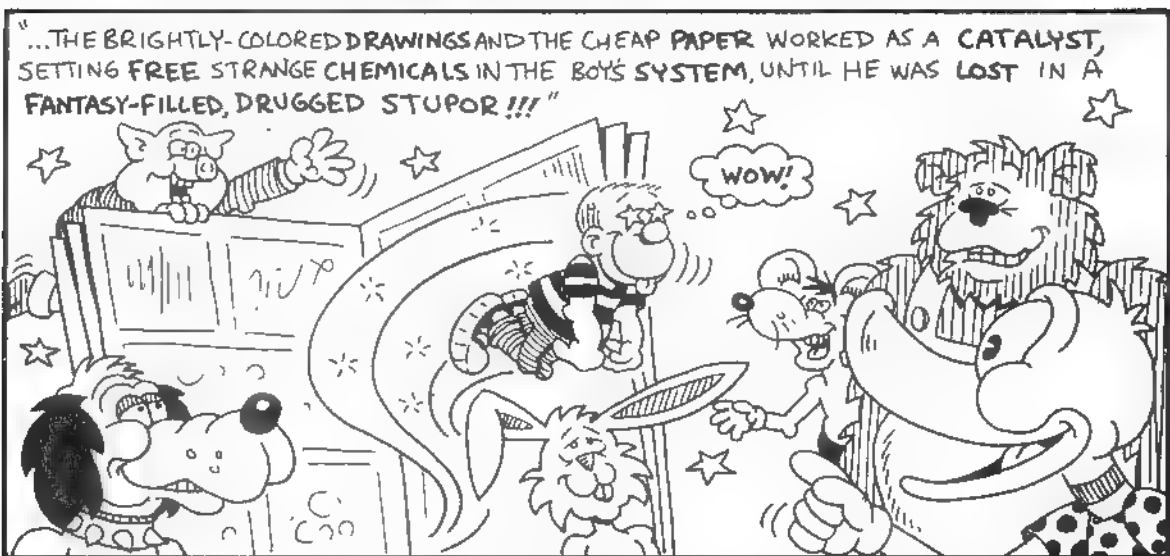
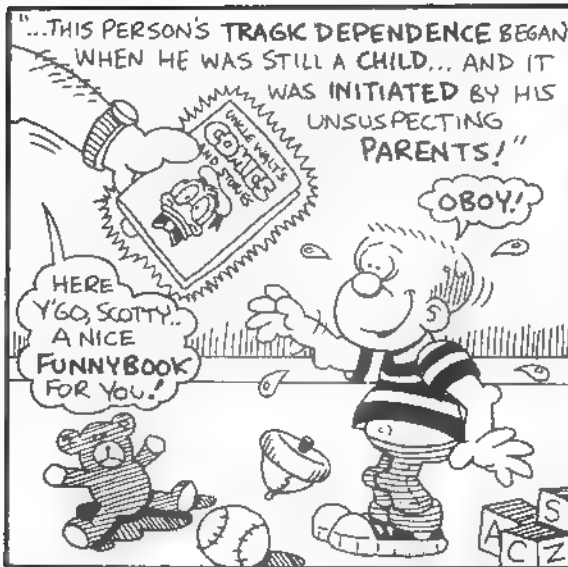
YES
OPEN



THIS IS AN UGLY STORY. AND THE UGLIEST THING ABOUT IT (OTHER THAN THE ART) IS THAT IT'S ALL TRUE!!! YES, BELIEVE ME! ...FOR I WAS A...

FUNNYBOOK JUNKIE!





"THE BOY'S PARENTS HOPED THAT THEIR SON'S PRE-OCCUPATION WITH COMIC BOOKS WAS JUST A PHASE HE WAS PASSING THRU..."



"...BUT TIME EVENTUALLY PROVED..."



"...THAT IT WAS MUCH MORE THAN A MERE PHASE..."



"HE BEGAN TO HOARD HIS LUNCH AND ALLOWANCE MONEY SO HE COULD PURCHASE A FAR MORE PRECIOUS COMMODITY..."



"...HIS WEEKLY QUOTA OF NEW AND USED COMIC BOOKS!!!"



"AND WHEN HIS FUNDS RAN OUT, HE RESORTED TO FURTIVE BROWSING..."



"BUT THEN, ONE DAY, WHILE PASSING A HIPPIE 'HEAD SHOP'..."

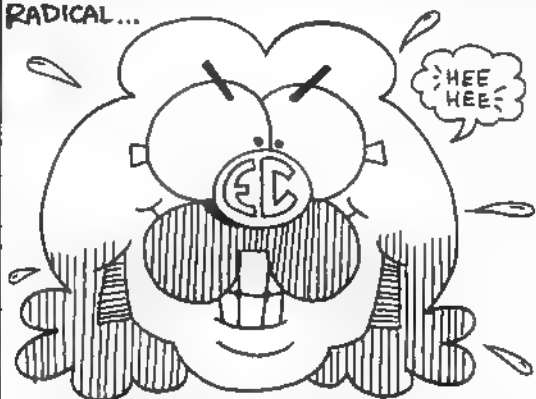


"SOON AFTER THAT, HIS EXPOSURE TO THE SUBVERSIVE COMIX BROUGHT ABOUT A FURTHER CHANGE IN THE LAD..."

ZZZZ



"YES, THOSE UNDERGROUND COMIX PROVED TO BE HIS BREAKING POINT... FOR THEY NOT ONLY TRANSFORMED HIM INTO A LONG-HAIRED RADICAL..."



".. BUT ALSO PUSHED HIM OVER THE BRINK; INTO THE REALM KNOWN ONLY TO A..."

"... A HARDENED COMIC-BOOK ADDICT!!!"



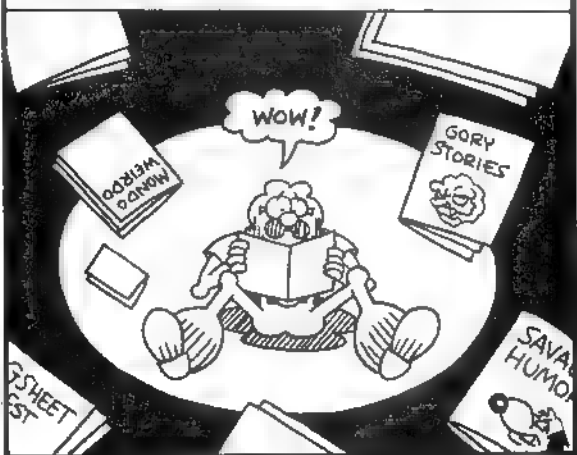
"THERE WAS NO IGNORING IT... HE HAD BECOME WHAT THE IGNORANT CALL A 'FUNNYBOOK JUNKIE', CONSTANTLY TRYING TO MAINTAIN HIS HABIT..."

HUH?

FEED ME!!!

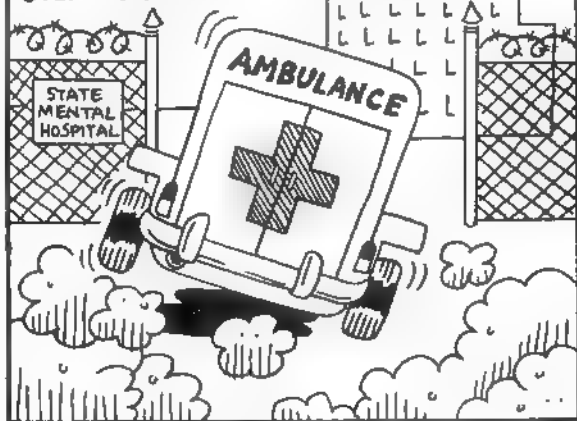


"YET HE COULDN'T ESCAPE...THE LAD JUST KEPT ON READING AND COLLECTING AND READING AND HOARDING AND READING..."



"THEN CAME THE DAY THEY FOUND HIM, DAZED AND SENSELESS, CLUTCHING A COMIC IN HIS NUMB FIST... HE HAD O.D.'ED... (NOT TO MENTION E.C.'ED AND D.C.'ED...)"

"THE POOR BOY WAS RUSHED TO THE NUT-HOUSE...ER...THE PROPER AUTHORITIES. HE KEPT MUTTERING 'ONLY A POOR OLD DUCK', OVER AND OVER..."



"FIRST HE UNDERWENT THE EXCRUCIATING 'COLD TURKEY!'"

A CASPER!
AN ARCHIE!
A SAD SACK!!
I'LL READ ANY-THING!

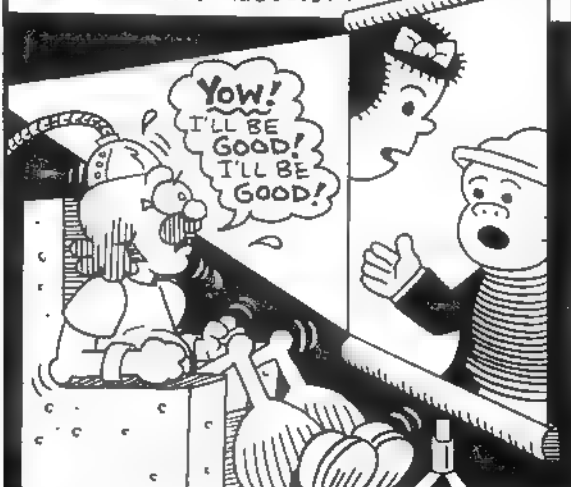
EVEN SORRY HAYES!



"THEN CAME THE TREATMENTS...SUBSTITUTION OF A HARMLESS SURROGATE PROVED INEFFECTIVE..."



"SHOCK TREATMENT YIELDED MORE SATISFACTORY RESULTS. ."



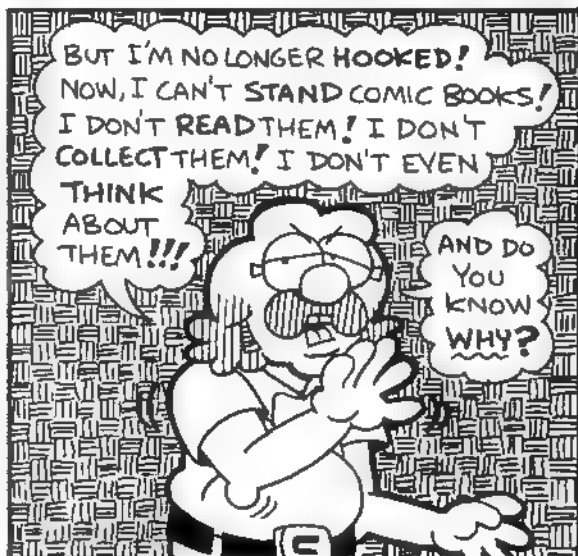
"AND FINALLY THE TIME ARRIVED WHEN THE YOUNG MAN COULD HONESTLY SAY..."



YES... BY NOW I'M SURE YOU'VE GUESSED THAT 'YOUNG MAN' WAS NONE OTHER THAN...



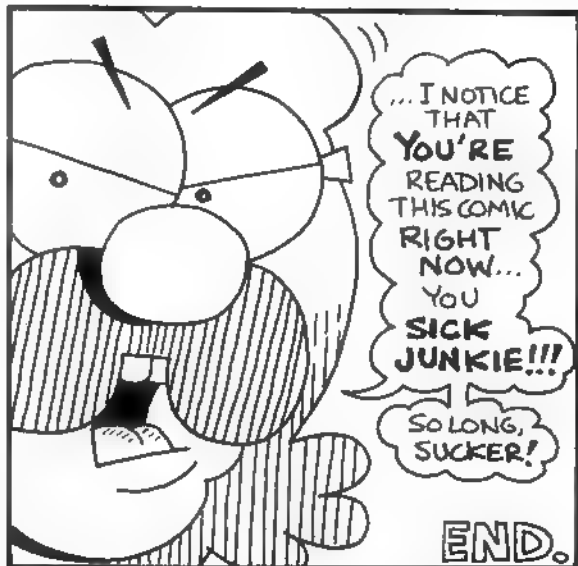
BUT I'M NO LONGER HOOKED! NOW, I CAN'T STAND COMIC BOOKS! I DON'T READ THEM! I DON'T COLLECT THEM! I DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THEM!!!



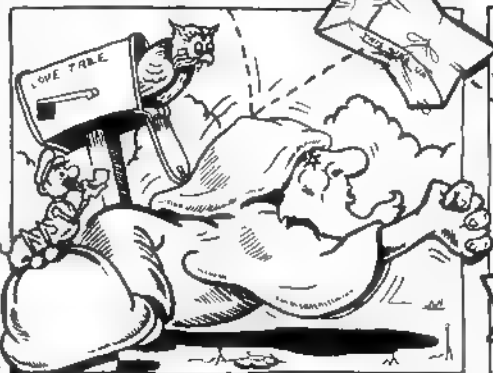
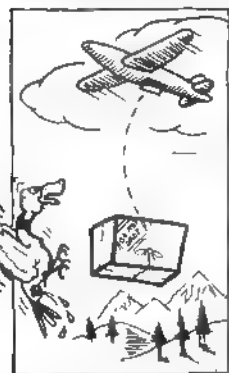
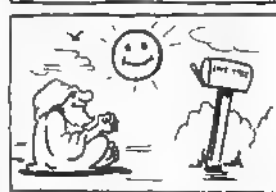
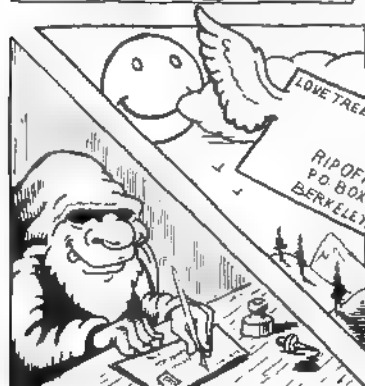
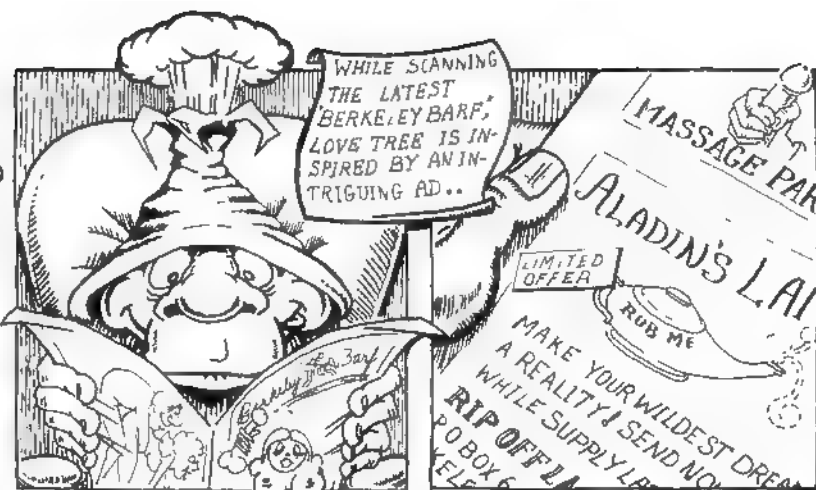
...BECAUSE NOW I'M A COMIC BOOKARTIST!!!

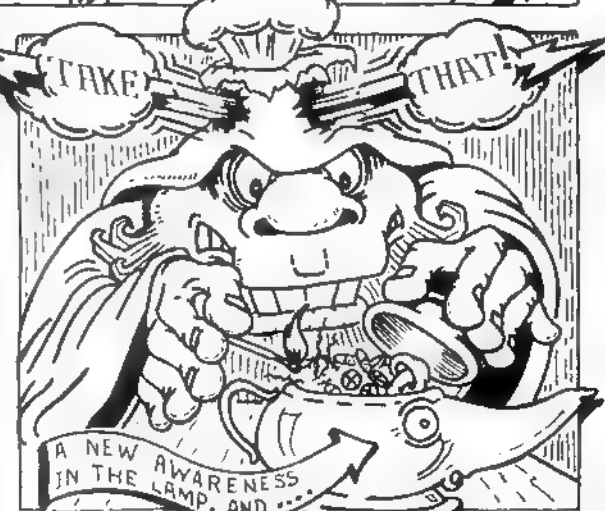
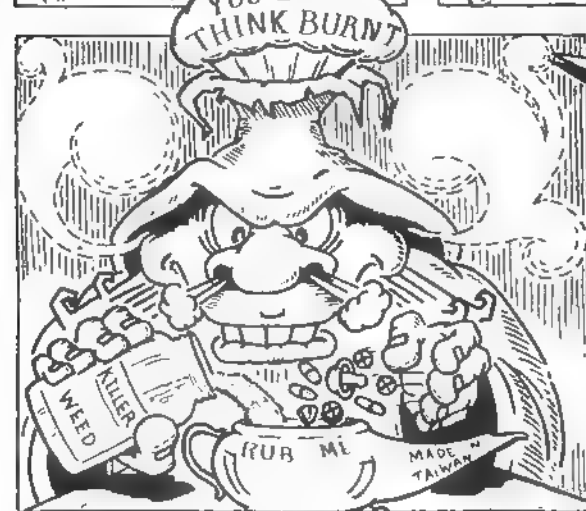
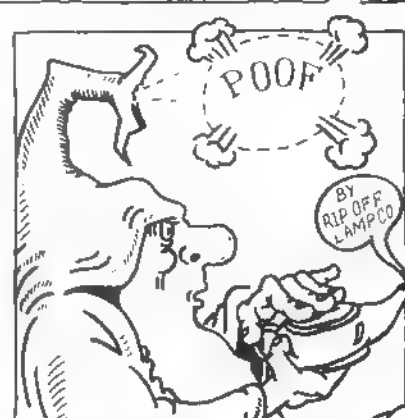
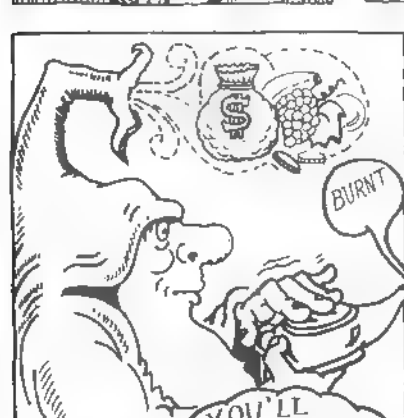


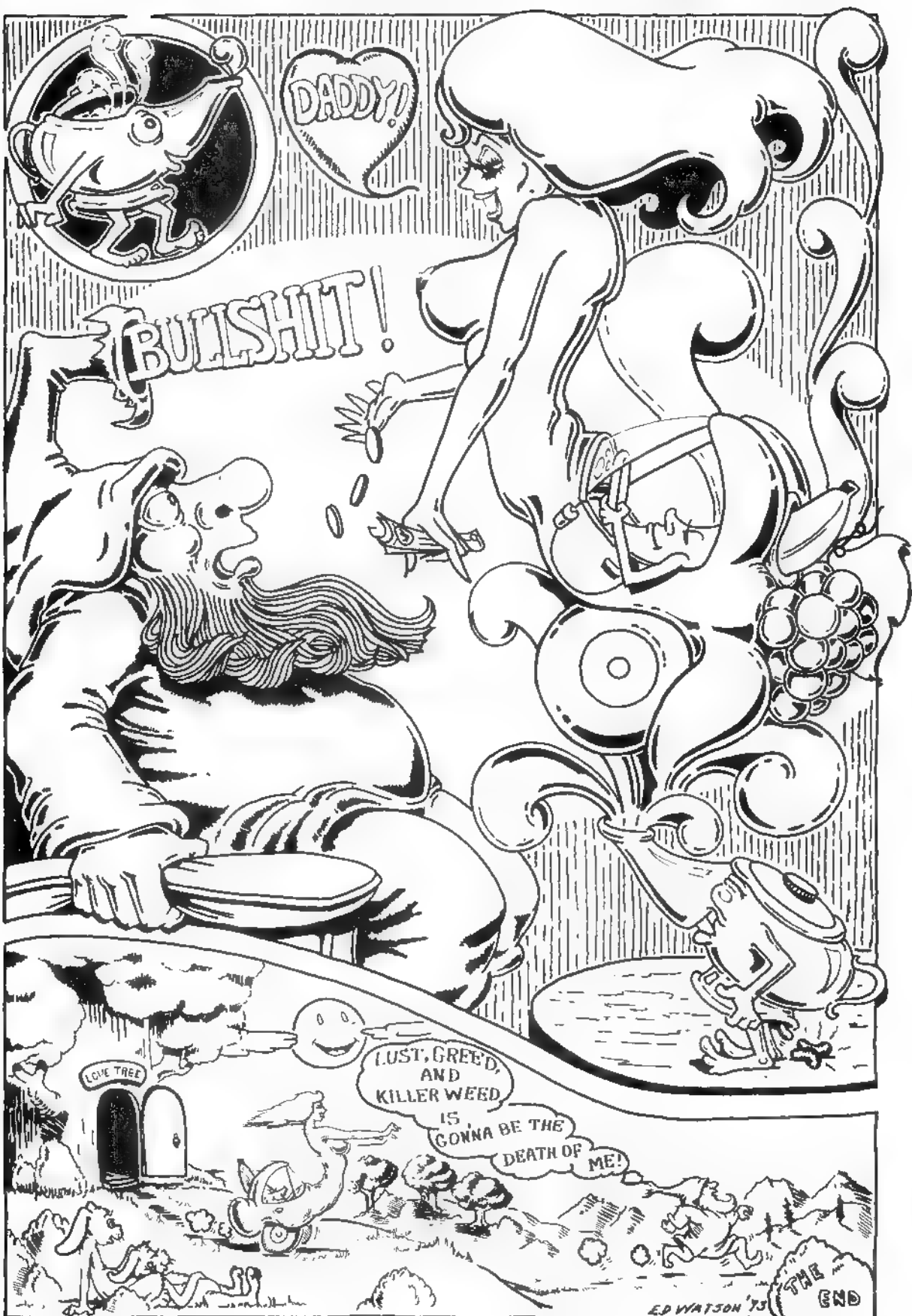
...I NOTICE THAT YOU'RE READING THIS COMIC RIGHT NOW... YOU SICK JUNKIE!!!



END.







HEY, LOOK, EVERYBODY, OUR GRAVEYARD MAN SHOWED UP!

GOOD GOING, MAN, YOU'RE ONLY TEN MINUTES LATE!

NOT THAT I THINK TEN MINUTES BOTHERS WILEY WILKES, STUDENT!

C'MON, JOE, TELL THAT STUPID SHIT OFF!

SORRY BOUT THE PLACE BEIN' A LITTLE MESSY.

CALM DOWN, TURKEY.

HEY, I NEED A HAND!

OK...

A REAL-LIFE (SORRY) CALIFORNIA SCENE STORY!

I'LL HELP YA' OUT!

A LITTLE MESSY!?!

4GMS



ACCORDING TO THE CASH REGISTER READINGS YOU'VE ONLY DONE... LET'S SEE...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, JOE! I DO THIS MUCH BUSINESS, ALONE, EVERY NIGHT AND YOU HAVE FOUR PEOPLE AND LEAVE ME A MESS!

BETWEEN SIX AND 26 DOLLARS AN HOUR SALES!

AND IF I LEFT THINGS LIKE THIS, I'D GET MY ASS KICKED!

JESUS CHRIST!
YOU SURE ARE
HOSTILE! IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?

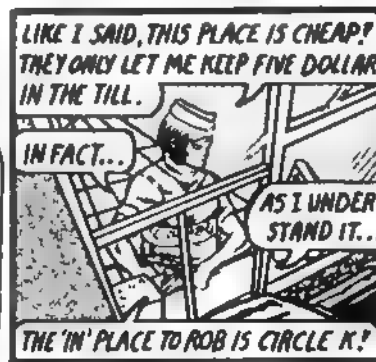
NO...

GOODBYE.

CAN GO HOME!

OH, SHIT!

THE + TACOS + SMY +
SRS + FR



HE DIDN'T SHOOT ME!
I'M ALIVE!
OH, GOD...

I'M
ALIVE!

HELL! WHO'M I
FOOLING? I'VE
BEEN DYING A
LITTLE EVERY
NIGHT HERE!
AND WHAT FOR?
A STUPID GIRL...

WHO NEVER
UNDERSTOOD...

I WAS KILLING MYSELF
FOR HER! WELL, SHE'S
LEFT ME NOW...

JUMP
BOAT

SO, WHY
CAN'T I
CUT FREE?

Ding-Ding

CLICK! HELLO...

MAY I HAVE
YOUR ORDER,
PLEASE?

YOU SURE
CAN,
LOVER!

WE'D LIKE TWO COKE
AND A HOTMANTOGO.

WHAT???

I SAID...

MY FRIEND AND I WOULD
LIKE TWO COKE, AND ONE
HOTMAN, TO GO!

SMALL.

I SEE...

WHAT SIZE ARE
THOSE COKE?

HMMM...
WHY NOT?

THEY'RE
BOTH PRETTY.
SO, WHY
SHOULDN'T
I?

Ding-Ding

BLAST IT! WHY
CAN'T I DECIDE
WHAT TO DO?

HI, MAY I
HAVE YOUR OR-
DER PLEASE?

YEH, AN' DON'T GIVE US THAT
JIVE ABOUT NO SEP-
ERATE ORDERS...

'CAUSE WE GOT SEVEN
OF 'EM, GOT THAT, BITCH?

GOT IT, BUT YOUR MAMA
ISN'T IN HERE, DUDE!

DON'T
SMART
OFF TO
ME, OR
I'LL CUT
YOU!

NOW, FOR OUR
FIRST ORDER...

I'D LIKE TWO FISHBUR-
GERS, A FRY, AN' A BIG
STRAWBERRY SH--

HEY, WHY'RE YOU
OUT HERE?

WHAT YOU GONNA
DO WITH THA--

HELLO, GIRLS. THESE
ARE YOUR TWO
SMALL COKE...

AND I, WITH ALL MODESTY POSSIBLE
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES...

AM YOUR
HOT MAN?

AND I BELIEVE WE
HAVE PLACES TO GO!

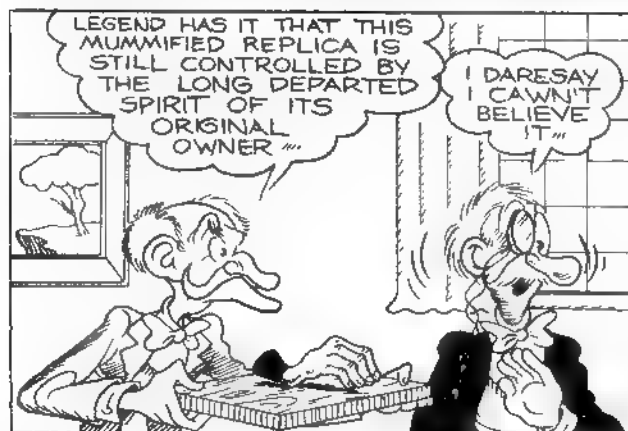
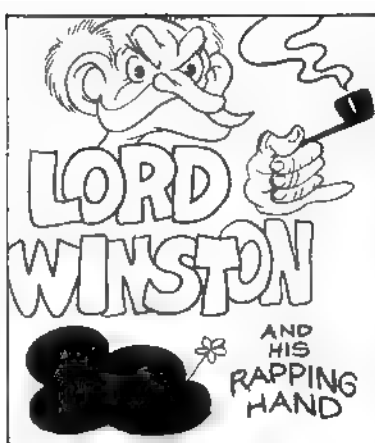
RIGHT ON,
LOVER!

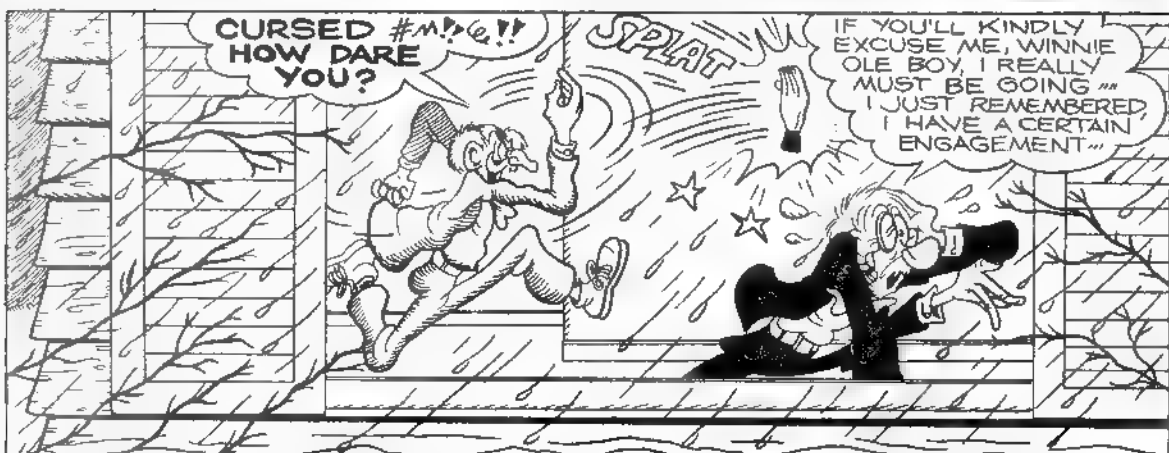
OK, LET'S MOVE
OUT, THEN!

THE END

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NO TWO-BIT
HAND IS GOING
TO CALL **ME** A
FIGHTWAD AND
GET AWAY
WITH IT!!

STOMP!
BASH!

SMASH!
CRUSH!

I'M GOING TO LOCK
IT UP INSIDE THIS
GLASS CABINET
FOR THE NIGHT!!!

"IT HATES TO
BE COOPED
UP IN THERE!!!"

CRASH!

WHAT
WAS
THAT?

SOCKO!!

CURSES!
THAT HAND
HAS TO
GO!



I'M GOING TO THROW
IT IN THE FIREPLACE,
SET FIRE TO IT AND
BURN IT TO CINDERS.



CONFOUND IT!
THERE'S SOME-
BODY AT THE
FRONT DOOR

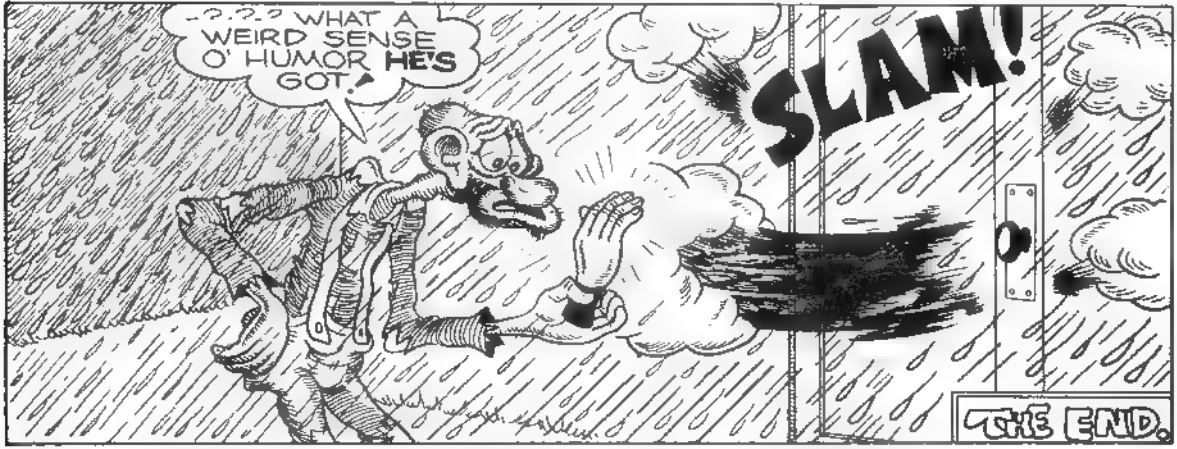


LISTEN, BUDDY!!!
I AIN'T HAD A DECENT
MEAL IN A WEEK!!!
CAN YOOZE GIVE
A POOR MAN
A HAND?

SO YOU
WANT A
HAND.
DO YOU?



-?..?..? WHAT A
WEIRD SENSE
O' HUMOR HE'S
GOT.



SLAM!

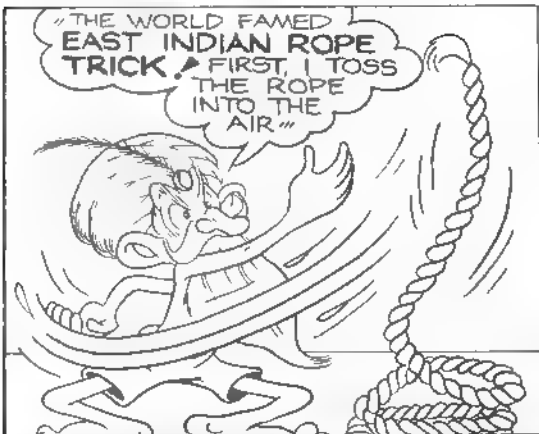
THE END.

AHAB THE ARAB

BEHOLD! YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS ONE OF THE GREATEST FEATS OF ALL TIME!!



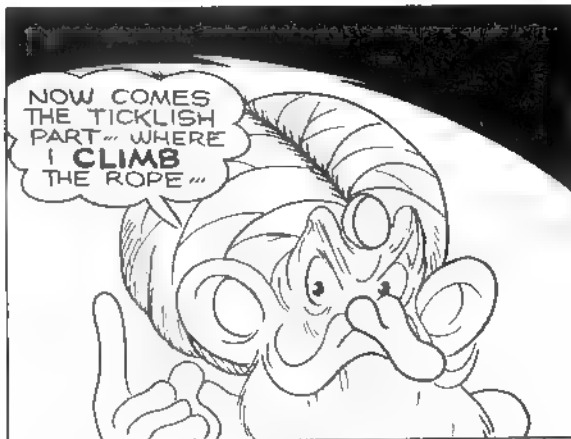
"THE WORLD FAMED EAST INDIAN ROPE TRICK! FIRST, I TOSS THE ROPE INTO THE AIR!"



"WHERE IT REMAINS SUSPENDED!"



NOW COMES THE TICKLISH PART!! WHERE I CLIMB THE ROPE!!



"AND LO AND BEHOLD! I'VE DONE IT AGAIN! THE FEAT OF THE AGES!!"

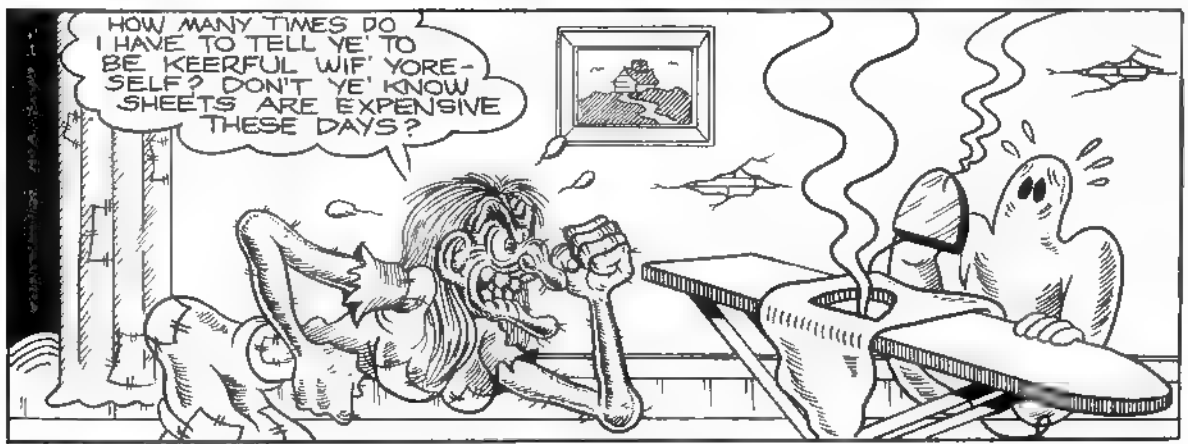
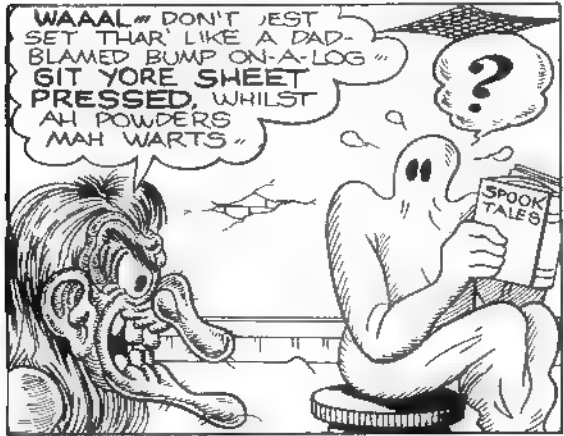
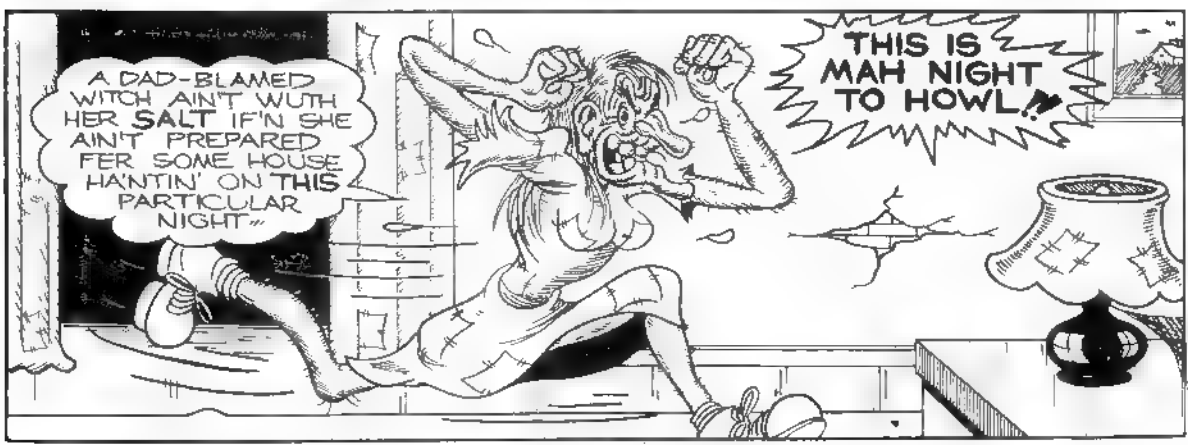


("SIGH") BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT TROUBLES ME!!



"I'VE BEEN PERFORMING THIS TRICK FOR OVER SEVENTY YEARS, AND IF I DON'T FIND OUT HOW I DO IT, I'LL GO BESERK!!"

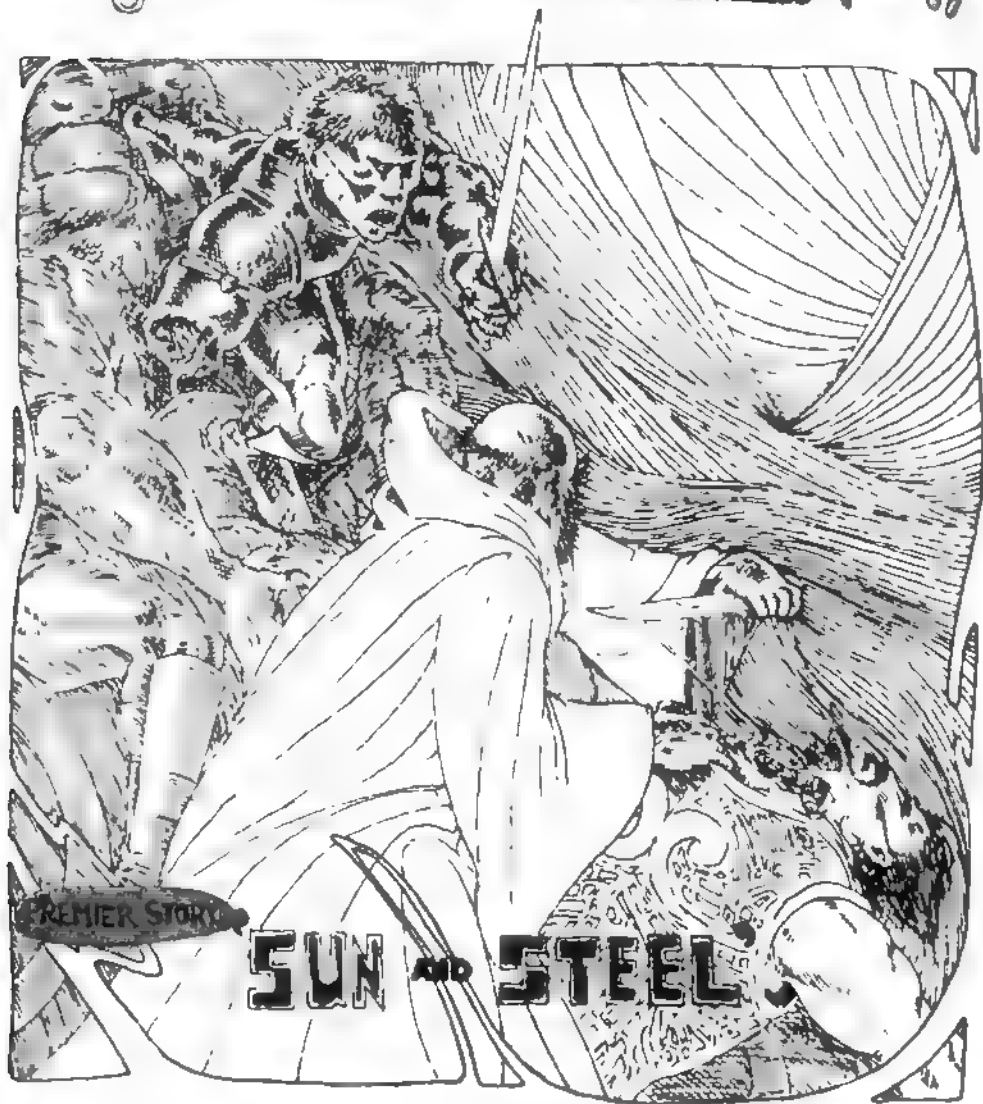






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